

To
Chief Electoral Officer, General Administration Department, Maharashtra, Mumbai.
Director General of Police, Maharashtra State, Mumbai.
All Divisional Commissioners,
All Commissioners of Police, Superintendents of Police.
All Collectors & District Election Officers in Maharashtra.

Sub: Availability of additional manpower for maintaining security at polling booths during ensuing Lok Sabha Elections.

As decided in a meeting of all concerned on 12.4.2004 to augment availability of manpower for maintaining security at polling booths during ensuing Lok Sabha Elections, the following instructions are issued for information and necessary action:

1) Home Guards: The Commandant General will supply the Home Guards as requested by Director General and if there is any shortfall the same should be met by Civil Defence personnel. It should be also ensured that the staff ordered for election purposes actually join duties.

2) Forest: Forest staff, other than those engaged in Sanctuary duties, have already been deployed for election purposes. In case of any shortfall of security personnel, the District Election officers are requested to spare such number of forest personnel from polling duties for security duties alongwith police as may be required. Staff of wild life sanctuaries may not be requisitioned.

3) Transport: It was reported that large number of transport officials have also been requisitioned for election duties. About 1/3rd of them may be spared for checking illegal transport of passengers/voters in vehicles on the polling days. The remaining staff, if necessary, may be deployed for security duties with police officials.

4) Excise: It was reported that a sizeable number of excise officials have also been taken for election duties. 1/3rd of them be spared for enforcing dry days during the elections. The remaining staff may be utilised for security duties if required by the local SP/CP.

5) NSS: The services of NSS boys, particularly those who have attended camps can be utilised for security duties. Director General of Police would issue detailed instructions in this regard.

6) NCC: It was pointed out that NCC cadets are not allowed for election security duties. We are taking up this matter separately with the Chief Election Commissioner and on receipt of their instructions we will inform all concerned.

All such officers and men from other Departments or volunteers other than Home Guards will have to be appointed as Special Police Officers u/s 21 of the Bombay Police Act. It may be ensured that they fulfil the conditions prescribed in the law. They should not be deployed outside town or village of their ordinary residence. They should always be deployed alongwith a regular police officer/police man and for polling booth security only. Home guards can be deployed in the usual manner.

(A.M. Nimbelkar)

Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Maharashtra